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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1486  
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 000402

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR S/ES, AF/FO, AF/RSA, AND AF/SPG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2016

TAGS: [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [KPKO](#) [ASEC](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: SLA REBELS SHOOT DOWN SAF HELICOPTER

REF: A. SECTOR 8 SPOTREP DTD 15 FEB 06

[1B.](#) TARIOT-WHITAKER TELCON OF 16 FEB 06

Classified By: P/E Chief E. Whitaker, Reason: Section 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (C) According to a U.S. military observer assigned to AMIS Sector 8 in El Daein, Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) rebels shot down a Sudanese Armed forces (SAF) helicopter east of Shaeria town in South Darfur State on February 14. The incident, preceded by several of hours of fighting between the two forces in the Shaeria area, involved two SAF Antonov helicopters that circled the area. According to his account, the helicopters engage in aerial attacks, followed by one being shot down, perhaps by 12.7 mm antiaircraft fire, at around 3:00 p.m. local time. The mil obs heard heavy explosions and witnessed thick black smoke at the apparent crash site.

[¶2.](#) (U) Reuters reported on February 14 that SLA rebels had shot down a SAF helicopter near Shaeria the same day, and that the only surviving crew member, a Captain Muawiya Jubeir, remained a prisoner of war.

[¶3.](#) (C) Post also received confirmation of the event from the U.S. delegation to the Abuja peace talks on Darfur, which reported that Sudanese government officials admitted the event had taken place. The report included reference to an SLA-held prisoner of war, and a description of the event as involving SAF use of helicopters to support "jinjaweed" attacks.

STEINFELD